

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 297866 TOSEC 120177
ORIGIN NEA-10

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APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER
S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH
EUR/WE:JDOBBINS
D:BLPASCOE
M/CT:JJOHNSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 297866 TOSEC 120177

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PSDC, PINT, AG, FR

SUBJ: DEMARCHE TO ALGERIA ON FRENCH HOSTAGES HELD BY
POLISARIO

REF: SECTO12061 (NOTAL)

1. DURING MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN BRUSSELS ON
DECEMBER 7, FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD REVIEWED
STATUS OF EFFORTS TO SECURE RELEASE OF FRENCH HOSTAGES HELD
BY POLISARIO. HE SAID THAT TALKS WITH POLISARIO HAVE
STALLED. PURSUANT TO SECRETARY VANCE'S OFFER TO DE
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GUIRINGAUD TO HAVE USG MAKE STIFF DEMARCHE TO ALGERIAN
GOVERNMENT URGING IT TO COOPERATE IN SECURING RELEASE OF
THESE PRISONERS, AMBASSADOR IS INSTRUCTED TO MAKE DEMARCHE
TO FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA OR A SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY
OFFICIAL IF BOUTEFLIKA IS UNAVAILABLE.

2. FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS ARE PROVIDED FOR YOUR USE:

-- SECRETARY VANCE SENT A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE NOVEMBER 2 EXPRESSING HIS HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE AN EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM CREATED BY THE POLISARIO MOVEMENT'S SEIZURE OF FRENCH NATIONALS.

-- DURING THEIR NOVEMBER 8 MEETING, THE SECRETARY CONVEYED TO FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA THE ASSURANCE OF FRENCH

AMBASSADOR DE LABOULAYE THAT CLEARING UP THE QUESTION OF THE FRENCH PRISONERS WOULD BE A GOOD STEP IN THE DIRECTION OF IMPROVED FRANCO-ALGERIAN RELATIONS.

-- WE ARE DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN THAT THE POLISARIO CONTINUE TO HOLD THESE FRENCH NATIONALS HOSTAGE.

-- THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF THESE INNOCENT CIVILIANS IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE USUAL NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIOR.

-- THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THE COOPERATION OF THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT IN SECURING THE EARLY RELEASE OF THESE HOSTAGES WOULD HELP EASE THE TENSION WHICH UNFORTUNATELY NOW EXISTS IN NORTHWEST AFRICA.

-- PLEASE INFORM YOUR GOVERNMENT OF THE SERIOUS CONCERN
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WITH WHICH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT REGARD THE CONTINUED CAPTIVITY OF THESE FRENCH NATIONALS AND THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT EXPECTS THAT THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT WILL USE ITS INFLUENCE TO FACILITATE THEIR EARLY RETURN TO THEIR FAMILIES.

3. AT END OF ORAL DEMARCHE, AMBASSADOR IS INSTRUCTED TO PRESENT FOLLOWING AIDE-MEMOIRE AND FRENCH TRANSLATION.

ENGLISH TEXT: BEGIN QUOTE:

-AIDE-MEMOIRE-

AS YOU ARE AWARE, SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE SENT A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE NOVEMBER 2 EXPRESSING HIS HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE AN EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM CREATED BY THE POLISARIO MOVEMENT'S SEIZURE OF FRENCH NATIONALS. DURING THEIR NOVEMBER 8 MEETING, THE SECRETARY CONVEYED TO FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA THE ASSURANCE OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR DE LABOULAYE THAT CLEARING UP THE QUESTION OF THE FRENCH PRISONERS WOULD BE A GOOD STEP IN THE DIRECTION OF IMPROVED FRANCO-ALGERIAN RELATIONS.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN THAT THE FRENCH CITIZENS SEIZED BY THE POLISARIO CONTINUE TO BE HELD HOSTAGE. THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO INFORM YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF THESE INNOCENT CIVILIANS IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE USUAL NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIOR. AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE INFORMED BOTH PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE AND FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA, HE BELIEVES THE COOPERATION OF THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT IN SECURING THE EARLY

RELEASE OF THESE HOSTAGES WOULD HELP EASE THE TENSION WHICH UNFORTUNATELY NOW EXISTS IN NORTHWEST AFRICA. PLEASE INFORM YOUR GOVERNMENT OF THE SERIOUS CONCERN WITH WHICH
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THE SECRETARY AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REGARD THE CONTINUED CAPTIVITY OF THESE FRENCH NATIONALS AND OF THE EXPECTATION OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT THAT THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT WILL USE ITS INFLUENCE TO FACILITATE THEIR EARLY RETURN TO THEIR FAMILIES. END QUOTE.

4. FRENCH TRANSLATION. BEGIN QUOTE:

- AIDE MEMOIRE - COMME VOUS LE SAVEZ, LE SECRETAIRE D'ETAT CYRUS VANCE A ADRESSE UN MESSAGE PERSONNEL AU PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE LE 2 NOVEMBRE DANS LEQUEL IL EXPRIME L'ESPOIR DE VOIR RAPIDEMENT RESOLU LE PROBLEME CREE PAR LA CAPTURE DE CITOYENS FRANCAIS PAR LE MOUVEMENT POLISARIO. LORS DE L'ENTRETIEN QU'IL A EU AVEC LE MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES BOUTEFLIKA, LE 8 NOVEMBRE, LE SECRETAIRE D'ETAT LUI A TRANSMIS L'ASSURANCE DE L'AMBASSADEUR DE FRANCE DE LABOULAYE QUE LA SOLUTION DE LA QUESTION DES PRISONNIERS FRANCAIS SERAIT UN BON PAS DANS LE SENS DE L'AMELIORATION DES RELATIONS FRANCO-ALGERIENNES.

LE SECRETAIRE D'ETAT A ETE DECU D'APPRENDRE QUE LES CITOYENS FRANCAIS SAISIS PAR LE POLISARIO CONTINUENT D'EN ETRE OTAGE. LE SECRETAIRE D'ETAT M'A CHARGE DE VOUS FAIRE SAVOIR QUE LE GOUVERNEMENT DES ETATS-UNIS ESTIME QUE LA DETENTION CONTINUE DE CES CIVILS INNOCENTS EST INCOMPATIBLE AVEC LES NORMES HABITUELLES DE CONDUITE INTERNATIONALE. LE SECRETAIRE D'ETAT ESTIME, COMME IL EN A FAIT PART AU PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE ET AU MINISTRE BOUTEFLIKA, QUE LA COOPERATION DU GOUVERNEMENT ALGERIEN EN VUE D'OBTENIR LA LIBERATION DE CES OTAGES A UNE DATE RAPPROCHEE CONTRIBUERAIT A ATTENUER LA TENSION QUI REGNE MALHEUREUSEMENT EN CE MOMENT
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QUI ANIME LE SECRETAIRE D'ETAT ET LE GOUVERNEMENT DES
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CITOYENS FRANCAIS AINSI QUE L'ATTENTE DU GOUVERNEMENT
DES ETATS-UNIS DE VOIR LE GOUVERNEMENT ALGERIEN
UTILISER SON INFLUENCE POUR FACILITER LEUR RETOUR
RAPIDE AUPRES DE LEURS FAMILLES. END QUOTE.

5. ACTING SECRETARY WILL MAKE SIMILAR DEMARCHE TO
ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 14. CHRISTOPHER

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DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:DHESTER:MAR

APPROVED BY NEA:JKBISHOP

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 297866

FOL RPT STATE 297866 ACTION ALGIERS INFO USDEL SECRETARY PARIS
RABAT DAKAR NOUAKCHOTT MADRID LONDON 14 DEC 77 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 297866 TOSEC 120177

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REF: SECTO12061 (NOTAL)

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DE L'AMBASSADEUR DE FRANCE DE LABOULAYE QUE LA SOLUTION
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PAS DANS LE SENS DE L'AMELIORATION DES RELATIONS FRANCO-
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5. ACTING SECRETARY WILL MAKE SIMILAR DEMARCHE TO
ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 14. CHRISTOPHER

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Sent Date: 14-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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TAGS: PSDC, PINT, AG, FR
To: ALGIERS
Type: TE
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